

# APPENDIX A

## Supporting Analysis

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## A.1 PARK SETTING

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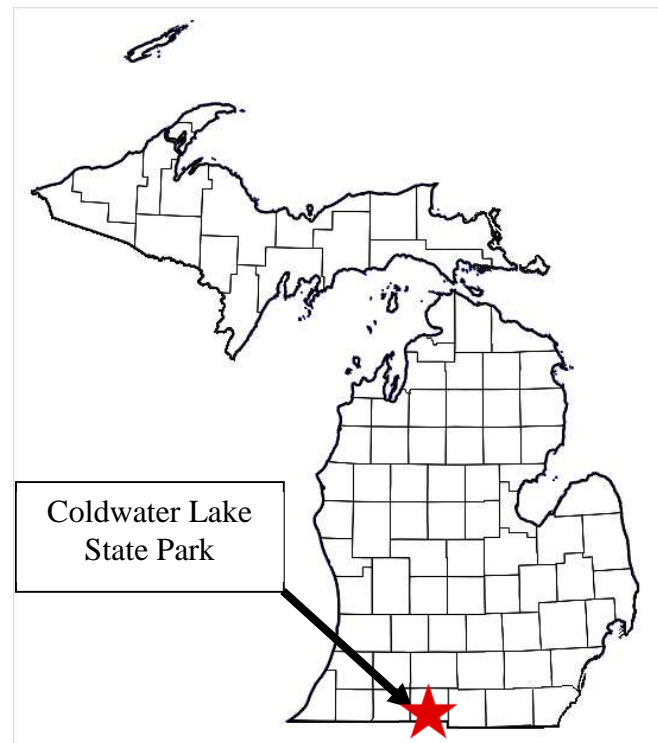
### **Park Profile**

Area: 400 acres  
County: Branch County  
Township: Kinderhook Township  
Latitude: 41.799535  
Longitude: -84.971867

Address: Coldwater, MI 49036  
Phone #: (517) 780-7866

### **Location & Community**

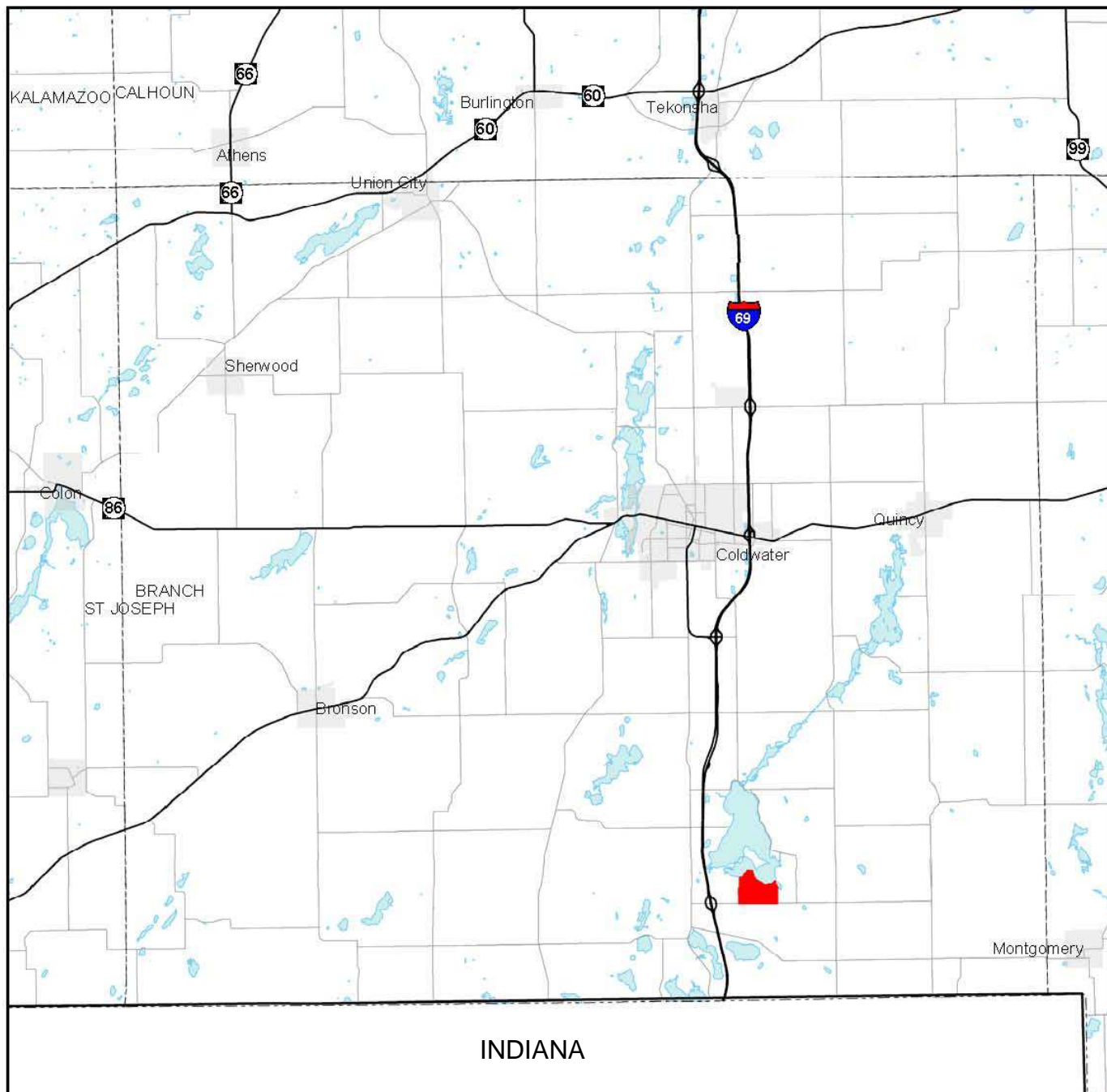
Coldwater Lake State Park is 400 acres of largely undeveloped park land in Branch County, seven miles north of the Indiana border. The park is located a half mile east of I-69 and nine miles south of the City of Coldwater. The park includes farmland, wetland and woodland with 6,600 feet of lake-frontage on the southern shores of Coldwater Lake. The 1,600 acre Coldwater Lake is connected to the largest chain of lakes in Branch County, consisting of a total 2,500 acres of water.



Rural Branch County is located half way between Chicago and Detroit along the Old Sauk Trail, also known as the U.S. 12 Heritage Route. I-69 runs north and south in the middle of the county, making Branch County easily accessible from either I-94 to the north or the 80/90 Toll Road to the south.


Branch County has two incorporated cities; Coldwater and Bronson, and three incorporated villages; Quincy, Sherwood, and Union City. The communities of Batavia, Girard, and Kinderhook are not incorporated; and there are several more small hamlets within the county.

# LOCATION MAP



## Legend

 Coldwater Lake State Park

 Miles

## A.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

Branch County was a primeval wilderness little more than one hundred fifty years ago, inhabited only by the Potawatomie Indians. In the year 1829 Branch County was laid out and named by the Territorial Legislature of Michigan. It was first attached to Lenawee County and later to St. Joseph for judicial purposes. The name was given in honor of John Branch of North Carolina, Secretary of the Navy in President Jackson's cabinet.

### **2010 U.S. Census Data for Branch County**

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the 2010 population of Branch County at 45,248. The population of this county has dropped by 1.18% since 2000.

People QuickFacts	Branch County	Michigan
Population, 2013 estimate	NA	9,895,622
Population, 2012 estimate	43,868	9,882,519
Population, 2010 (April 1) estimates base	45,248	9,883,701
Population, percent change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013	NA	0.1%
Population, percent change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012	-3.0%	Z
Population, 2010	45,248	9,883,640
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2012	6.4%	5.8%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2012	24.1%	22.9%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2012	15.8%	14.6%
Female persons, percent, 2012	48.5%	50.9%
<hr/>		
White alone, percent, 2012 (a)	95.4%	80.1%
Black or African American alone, percent, 2012 (a)	2.0%	14.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent, 2012 (a)	0.5%	0.7%
Asian alone, percent, 2012 (a)	0.6%	2.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent, 2012 (a)	Z	Z
Two or More Races, percent, 2012	1.5%	2.2%
Hispanic or Latino, percent, 2012 (b)	4.2%	4.6%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent, 2012	91.6%	76.2%
<hr/>		
Living in same house 1 year & over, percent, 2008-2012	87.3%	85.4%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2008-2012	2.6%	6.0%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2008-2012	8.4%	9.0%



i High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2008-2012	87.0%	88.7%
i Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2008-2012	13.8%	25.5%
i Veterans, 2008-2012	3,270	692,582
i Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2008-2012	23.7	23.9
i Housing units, 2012	20,724	4,525,004
i Homeownership rate, 2008-2012	78.8%	72.8%
i Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2008-2012	8.7%	18.0%
i Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2008-2012	\$104,700	\$128,600
i Households, 2008-2012	16,036	3,818,931
i Persons per household, 2008-2012	2.62	2.53
i Per capita money income in past 12 months (2012 dollars), 2008-2012	\$19,633	\$25,547
i Median household income, 2008-2012	\$42,995	\$48,471
i Persons below poverty level, percent, 2008-2012	17.3%	16.3%
<b>Geography QuickFacts</b>	<b>Branch County</b>	<b>Michigan</b>
i Land area in square miles, 2010	506.37	56,538.90
i Persons per square mile, 2010	89.4	174.8
i FIPS Code	023	26
i Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area	Coldwater, MI Micro Area	

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/26/26023.html>

The population growth rate is lower than the state average rate of -0.55% and is much lower than the national average rate of 9.71%. Branch county median household income is \$42,995 in 2008-2012 and has grown by 10.93% since 2000. The income growth rate is higher than the state average rate of 8.52%.

The area supports a large number of seasonal residents, attracted by the abundance of lakes and resulting recreation opportunities. The 2010 US Census indicates that 46% of the housing units in Kinderhook Township are seasonal, recreational or occasional use.

### **A.3 HISTORY OF COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK**

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The land that is currently Coldwater Lake State Park was farmed since the early 1800's and contained two farm houses prior to becoming a state park. Of the 400 acres, 221 acres are still being actively farmed.

Local supporters nominated the site in 1986 to be purchased through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for a park. The Department of Natural Resources recognized that this land offered an attractive, convenient location for a state park near I-69. Acquisition of this parcel represented a unique opportunity to provide a quality public recreation facility in southern Michigan, where public ownership was limited.

The acquisition application was submitted in 1986. The park was deeded over to the DNR in 1988 and the land park officially became a state park.

Soon after purchase of the park, the two farmhouses were demolished. A lease is in place to continue the farming of 221 acres. Signage and two small parking lots were developed to accommodate primarily hunters. In 2013, the parking lots were renovated and signage was added.

In late 2013, the Coldwater Country Conference and Visitors Bureau convened a meeting between the DNR and Branch County representatives to discuss the possible development of the property. This prompted the DNR to complete a general management plan for the site in order to get public input and provide a vision for the park.

The assets of the property cited when it was purchased include the lack of public land in this area of the state, the large frontage on Coldwater Lake and easy access from highway I-69. Documents relating to the purchase do not offer any specific plans for the property other than to open it for hunting, fishing and trapping following completion of the purchase and the potential to provide public recreation opportunities in southeast Michigan. After the purchase was made in 1986, the DNR experienced a decline in revenue and increasing costs associated with aging infrastructure; factors which help to explain the lack of development at the park.

## **A.4 LAND OWNERSHIP**

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### **Funding Source**

In 1987, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) board recommended approval for the expenditure of up to \$900,000 for the purchase of 400 acres from the Fide Corporation located on Coldwater Lake for the purposes of providing access to public recreation land in southern Michigan. Those funds were appropriated by the Legislature and the purchase was completed in 1988.

#### **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)**

The trust fund was established in 1976 to provide a source of funding for public acquisition of lands for resource protection and public outdoor recreation. Funding is derived from royalties on the sale and lease of state owned mineral rights. Restrictions of this funding source include:

- Land must remain open for public recreation use in perpetuity
- All development on the site must be for public recreation purposes

### **Granted Easements**

The park has one known granted easement that was part of the land transfer in 1988.

#### **Consumers Power Company**

- For right-of-way, recorded in Liber 193, pages 72,78,79, Branch County records as to Section 2 lands.

### **Leases**

#### **Wiler Farms**

- A lease exists for 221 acres (55%) of the property for farming purposes in 2015 with 196 acres farmed in 2016. The contract is reviewed annually with an option to extend the contract up to a maximum of 7 years.
- Contract expires 11/30/2017

### **Use Permits**

#### **Kinderhook Riding Club**

- A use permit exists for the Kinderhook Riding Club to ride horses on the property from January 1 to April 15 on two-tracks or along field boundaries.

## **A.5 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RECREATION RESOURCES**

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Coldwater Lake State Park is the largest public land site in Branch County. There are no State Parks in neighboring Hillsdale, Calhoun or St. Joseph Counties. Other recreation resources in the County are relatively small in size, with the biggest at 60 acres.

### **County Resources**

The Branch County park system began with one park called Memorial Park, located on Behnke Road, in 1964. The system has grown to 5 parks on over 120 acres, as described below.

#### **Memorial Park**

- 30 acres located on Messenger Lake, west of downtown Coldwater
- Boat launch, parking, restroom, campground, picnic facilities, beach and athletic facilities.

#### **Riverbend Park**

- 25 acres located northwest of Coldwater on Union City Road.
- Picnic facilities, canoe access and parking

#### **Gilead Lake Park**

- 6 acres located 6 miles south of Bronson on Booth Road
- Boat launch, restroom, parking, picnic facilities

#### **Quincy-Marble Lake**

- 60 Acres on Lake Boulevard in Quincy
- Boat launch, restroom, parking, campground, picnic facilities, beach

#### **Angel Cove Park**

- 6 acres on US 12, west of Coldwater
- Boat launch, restrooms, parking, campground

Branch County has 107 lakes; two chains of lakes totaling 21 square miles, providing opportunities for fishing and recreational boating. The two beaches referenced above are not ideal due to frequent beach closings and water quality issues.

### **Municipal Resources**

The City of Coldwater has 9 parks totaling 130 acres. Bronson has 4 public parks, Union City has 1 park, Quincy has 1 park, Sherwood Village has 1 park, and Ovid Township has 1 park. Highlighted parks are listed below:

Heritage Park (City of Coldwater) - Swimming, water slide, softball, sledding, skatepark, picnic pavilions

Linear Park (City of Coldwater) - Mountain Biking

Rotary Park (City of Coldwater) - Fishing, boat launch, restrooms on Messenger Lake

Waterworks Park (City of Coldwater) - Softball, restrooms, soccer, playground

South Lake Park (City of Coldwater) - Walking trails, wildlife viewing

Douglas Park (city of Bronson) - Picnic Pavilions

Greenwald Parks (City of Bronson) - Picnic Pavilions

Riverbend Park (village of Union City)

### **Commercial Campgrounds**

- South Chain of Lakes:
  - o Butler Resort, Coldwater
  - o Coldwater Lake Camp, Coldwater
  - o Cottonwood Resort, Quincy
  - o Green Acres Campground, Coldwater
  - o Lakes End Campground, Quincy
  - o Sunset Cove Resort, Quincy
- North Chain of Lakes:
  - o Coldwater River Campground, Coldwater
  - o Kesas Cove Resort, Coldwater
  - o Narrows Campground, Coldwater
  - o Raymond's Landing, Coldwater
  - o Waffle Farm Campground, Coldwater
- Miscellaneous:
  - o Dove's Landing, Coldwater
  - o Honey Lake Campground, Bronson
  - o Huyck's Lake Campground, Coldwater
  - o Potawatomie Recreation Area, Union City
  - o St. Joe River Campground, Sherwood
  - o Butler Motor Speedway Campground, Quincy

### **Golf Courses**

- Golf Club of Coldwater
- Bella Vista Golf Course
- Iyopawa Island Golf Course

## **State Resources**

### **Fort Custer Recreation Area**

Fort Custer Recreation Area is the closest Michigan State Park to Coldwater, located approximately 45 miles northwest. It includes the following:

- Cross Country Skiing
- Fishing
- Camping
- Hiking Trails
- Mountain Bike Trails
- Equestrian Trails
- Swimming Beach
- Hunting
- Boat Launch
- Modern Camping, Group Camping
- Cabins
- Picnic Pavilions
- Disc Golf Course

### **Boating Access Sites (BAS)**

The State of Michigan has 16 public boat access sites totaling 39 acres in Branch County, including one located on the west side of Coldwater Lake.

Coldwater Lake Boating Access Site:

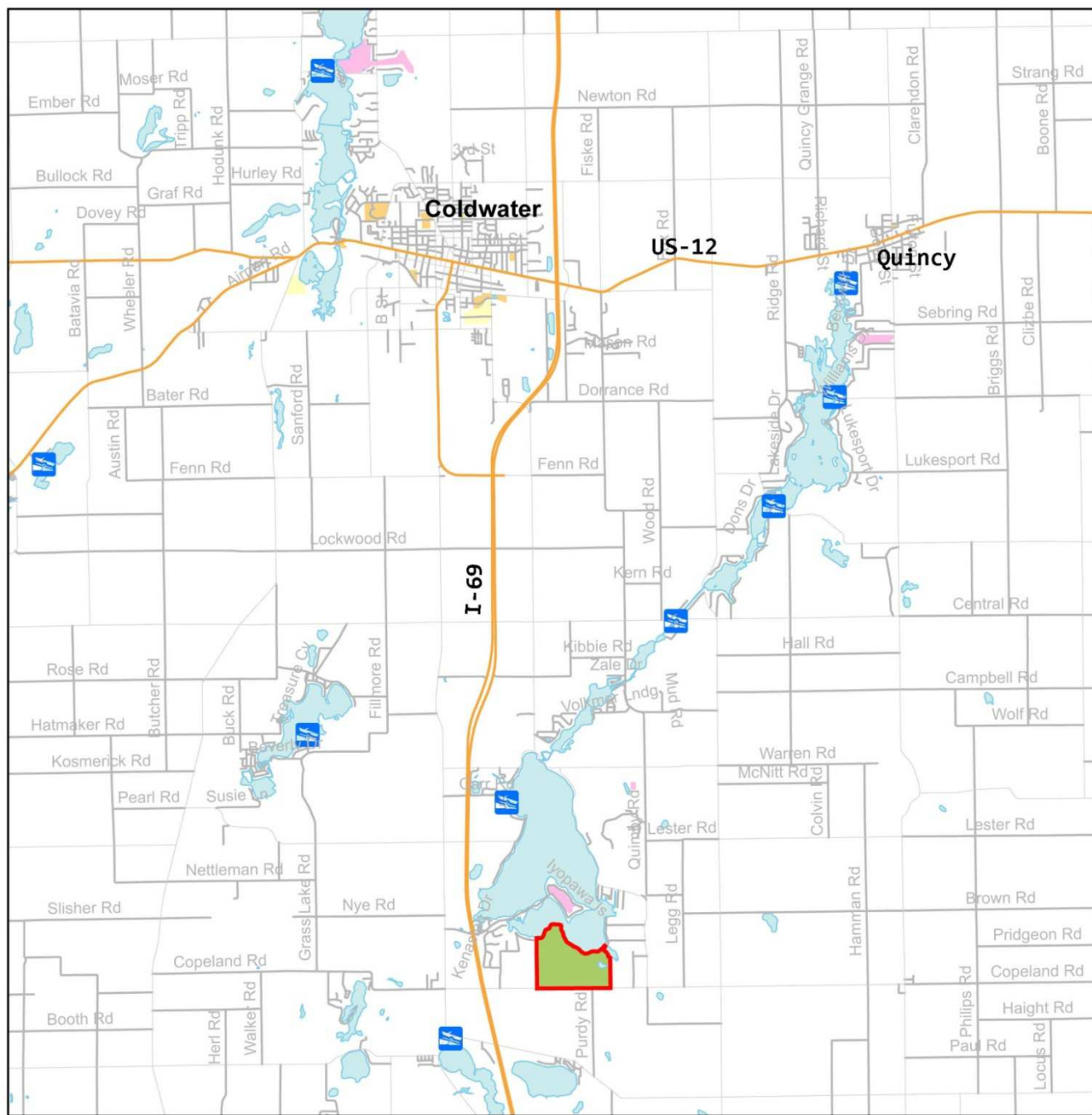
- Located on the northwest side of Coldwater Lake, accessed from Maple Knoll Beach.
- ADA accessible hard-surfaced ramp with skid pier.
- Paved 59 space parking lot with public restroom Very popular with boaters and fishermen.

### **Pokagon State Park**

Pokagon State Park is one of the premier Indiana State Parks located just south of the border with easy access off of I-69 on Lake James. The park is approximately 20 miles from Coldwater Lake State Park. The park is also adjacent to the Beechwood Nature Preserve, a 74 acre parcel owned by the ACRES Land Trust. Pokagon State Park includes the following:

- 1,260 acres, established in 1925
- 12 miles of Hiking Trails
- Equestrian Trails
- Modern Camping, Group Camping, Rustic Camping
- Potawatomi Inn
- Toboggan Slide
- Nature Center
- Swimming Beach
- Picnic Pavilions
- Boating And Boat Rental

# COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK AREA RECREATION OWNERSHIP



## Legend

- Coldwater Lake State Park Boundary
- County
- Local
- Non-Governmental Organization
- Other
- Private

- State Boat Access Sites
- State Land

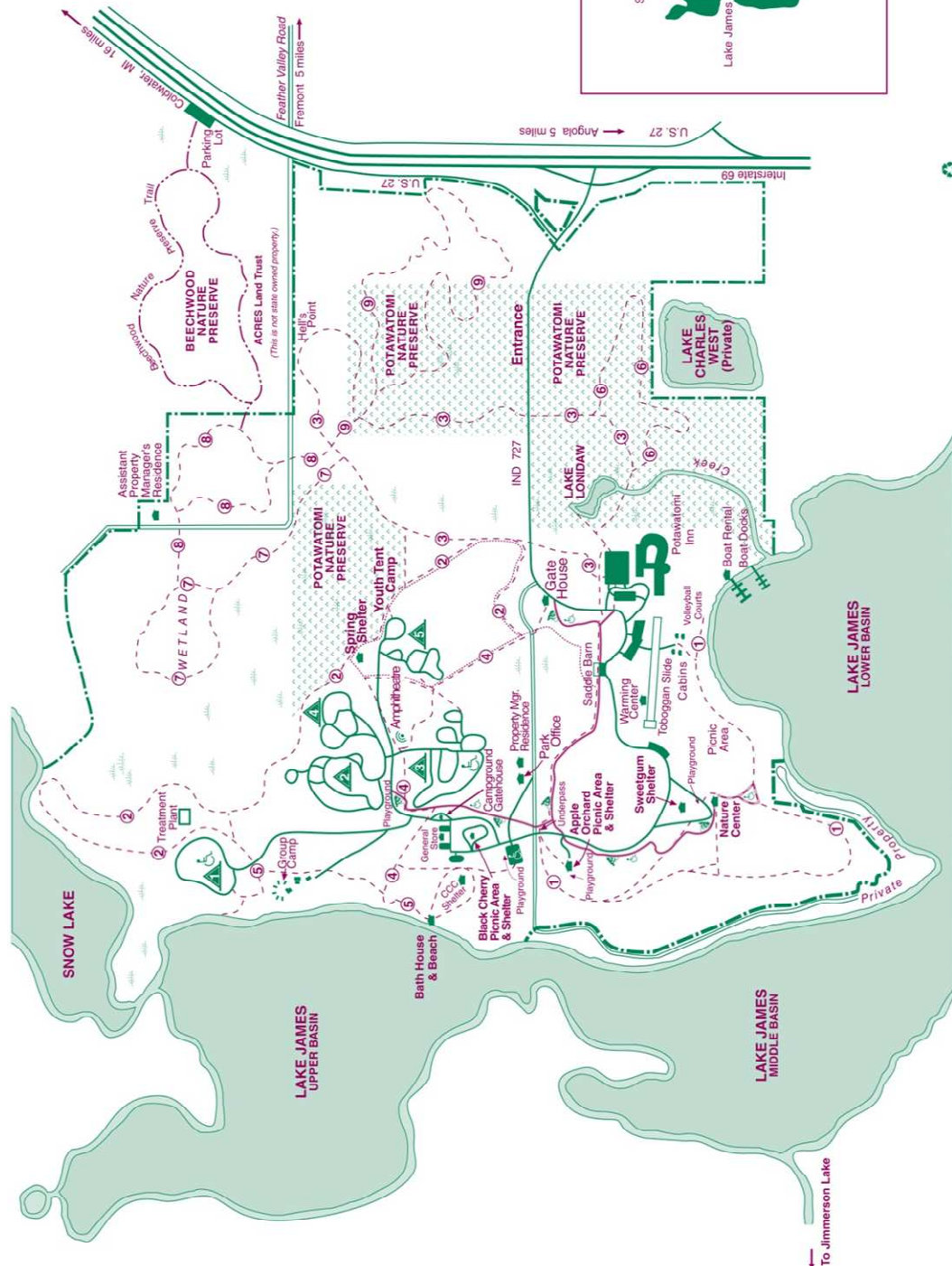
1 0.5 0 1 Miles





# POKAGON STATE PARK

450 Lane 100 Lake James • Angola, Indiana 46703 • 260-833-2012  
1,260 Acres  
Established 1925



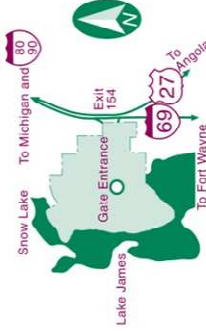
**Beechwood Nature Preserve** - Along the east edge of the park, Trail 8 crosses the border and enters the 88-acres, Beechwood Nature Preserve, a unit of the ACRES Land Trust. Here a 1.5 mile loop continues over rolling hills of old meadows now sporting thickets of gray dogwoods and remnants of an old apple orchard. From the loop, a short section of the trail continues to the Beechwood parking lot at State Road 127. A boardwalk traverses a lowland swamp featuring rare yellow birch, red maple, blue beech, and skunk cabbage.



TRAIL	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
1	2	Moderate
2	2.2	Moderate
3	1.4	Moderate
4	1.4	Moderate
5	7	Easy
6	7	Moderate
7	1.8	Moderate
8	1	Moderate
9	1.7	Moderate

LEGEND	Nature	Trail	Access	Ground
Road	Hiking Trail	Horse Trail	Bicycle Trail	Boundary
Nature	Trail	Access	Trail	Marsh

## LOCATION MAP



Printed on Recycled Paper

## A.6 LEGAL MANDATES

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For all park General Management Plans, all legal mandates are identified that serve to further guide the development of the General Management Plan and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term “Legal Mandates” refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of “Policy” and “Directive” of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department, and the Parks & Recreation Division. Examples include Wildlife Conservation Orders, Orders of the Director, and all other laws, commission orders, and rules or directives that apply to the park. Specific to Coldwater Lake State Park, several legal mandates have been identified, which are listed below.

PA 451 of 1994, Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), Article 1, Part 5  
Section 324.504: This law describes the DNR’s authority to make rules that support its mission.

- (1) “The department shall promulgate rules to protect and preserve lands and property under its control from depredation, damage, or destruction or wrongful or improper use or occupancy.”

The rules relate to camping, motorized vehicle use, control of animals, trail use etc.

PA 451 of 1994, Part 303 - Wetlands Protection, of NREPA, as amended.

The law requires that persons planning to conduct certain activities in regulated wetlands apply for and receive a permit from the state (DEQ) before beginning the activity. A permit is required for the following:

- Deposit or permit the placing of fill material in a wetland.
- Dredge, remove, or permit the removal of soil or minerals from a wetland.
- Construct, operate, or maintain any use or development in a wetland.
- Drain surface water from a wetland.

PA 451 of 1994, Part 419 - Hunting Area Control (NREPA)

Section 324.41901 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting.

PA 451 of 1994, Part 741 - State Park System (NREPA)

Sec. 74102:

- (1) The legislature finds:
  - (a) Michigan state parks preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural and historic resources.
  - (b) Michigan state parks are appropriate and uniquely suited to provide opportunities to learn about protection and management of Michigan's natural resources.
  - (c) Michigan state parks are an important component of Michigan's tourism industry and vital to local economies.
  - (d) A holistic, integrated park system that reflects the unique value of both state and local parks is a goal of this state.
  - (e) State and local park planners should work in concert for a coordinated Michigan park and recreation plan.

- (2) The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan's natural resources and the need to protect and manage those resources.

PA 35 of 2010, Part 741 ("Recreation Passport")

This act amended the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code to provide for a State Park and State-operated public boating access site "Recreation Passport" that a Michigan resident may obtain by paying an additional fee when registering a motor vehicle. The Recreation Passport is required for entry into Coldwater Lake State Park.

PA 45 of 2010 - Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act

Amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (PA 451 of 1994) to require the DNR to establish a plan for a statewide trail network that includes Michigan trailways, pack and saddle trailways, and other recreational use trailways, and to permit pack and saddle animals on designated trailways managed by the DNR.

PA 46 of 2010 - Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act

Amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (PA 451 of 1994) with a finding that a statewide system of trails, trailways, and pack and saddle trailways is in the best interest of the state; requires the DNR to establish an "adopt-a-trail" program that allows volunteer groups to assist in maintaining and enhancing Michigan trailways, pack and saddle trailways, and rail-trails; and creates the Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council within the department.

DNR Policy 26.04-04 - Use of State-Owned Lands Administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (ISSUED: 02/01/2006)

It shall be the policy of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to manage State-owned lands in a manner that protects and enhances the public trust while providing for the use and enjoyment of those lands as outlined in the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. Applications to use State-owned lands will be considered and may be approved if the proposed use is consistent with other public interest and natural resource values.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit

The NPDES permit process was initiated by The Federal Water Pollution Control Act amendments of 1972. The purpose of the program is to control the discharge of pollutants into surface waters by imposing effluent limitations to protect the environment. Authority for NPDES permit issuance rests with the MDEQ.

COLDWATER LAKE - R281.712.21 - Slow--no wake speed zone.

21. On that part of the waters of Coldwater lake located along and within a distance of 200 feet either side of a line drawn from the southernmost point of Iyopawa island southwesterly to the nearest point of land, located in section 2, T8S, R6W, Kinderhook township, Branch county, it is unlawful for the operator of a vessel to exceed a slow--no wake speed.



**Coldwater Lake “slow, no wake” speed zone**



## **A.7 LAND COVER**

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### **Land Cover Circa 1800**

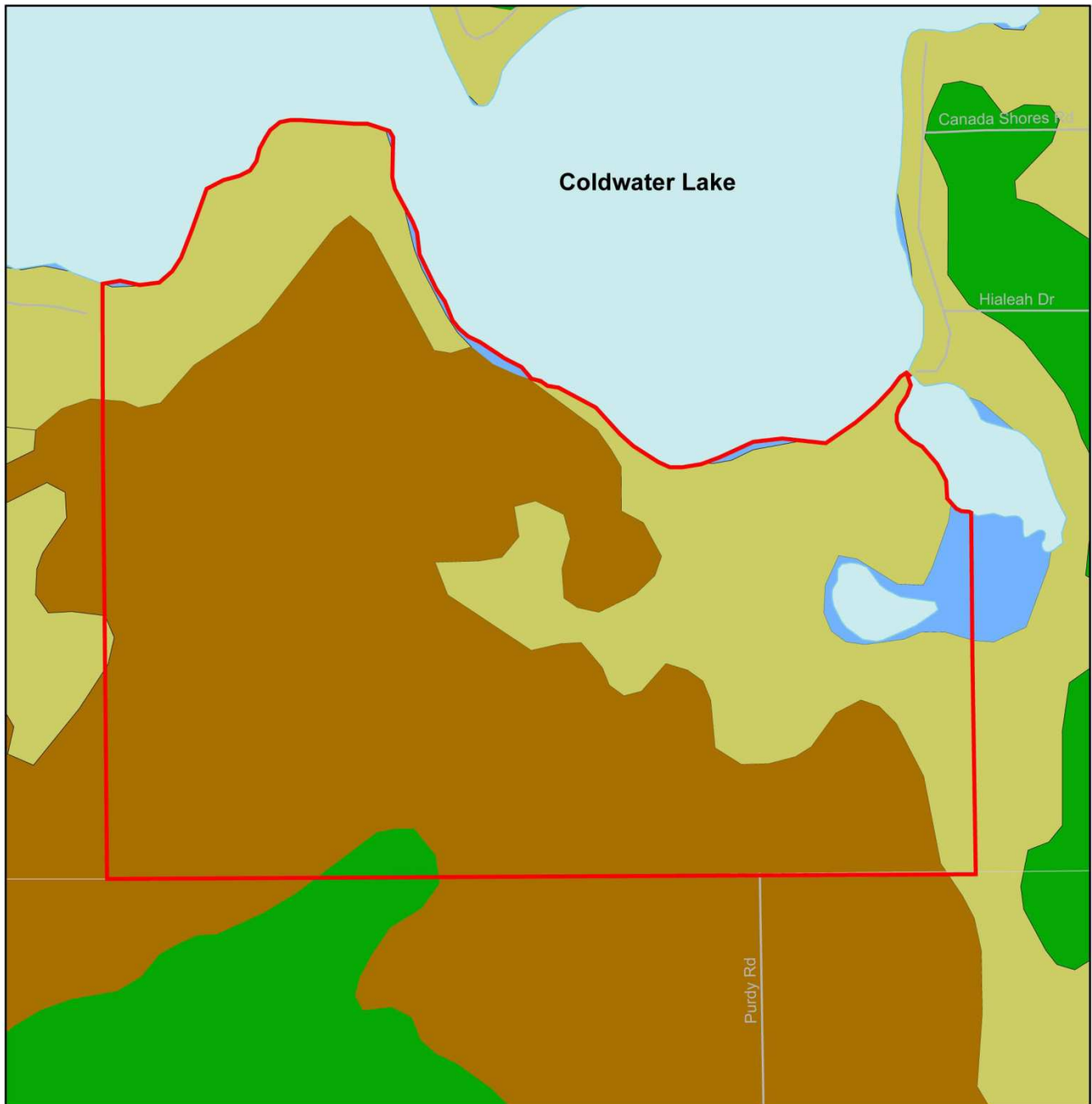
Prior to permanent settlement, the Coldwater Lake area consisted of primarily oak barrens (savanna), with pockets of more closed-canopy oak forest and mesic (tallgrass) prairie in the uplands. Wetlands were primarily emergent marsh and hardwood-conifer swamp.

### **Current Land Cover**

Most of the uplands and large areas of wetland in this area have been converted to agriculture. Drainage has allowed wetlands to be planted to row crops. Many wetlands are used as pasture, especially the grasslands along streams. Many of the large wetlands occupying glacial drainageways and ice-block depressions remain dominated by native vegetation. The shorelines of many of the kettle lakes are being developed for either recreational or residential use.

Within the park, nearly all uplands are currently leased agricultural fields, and the wetlands remain a mix of emergent marsh, sedge meadow, and forested swamp.

# COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK LAND COVER 1800's



## Legend

- Coldwater Lake State Park Boundary
- Oak Barrens
- Wetland
- Water
- Open Water
- Oak

0.1 0.05 0 0.1 Miles



## A.8 NATURAL SYSTEMS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

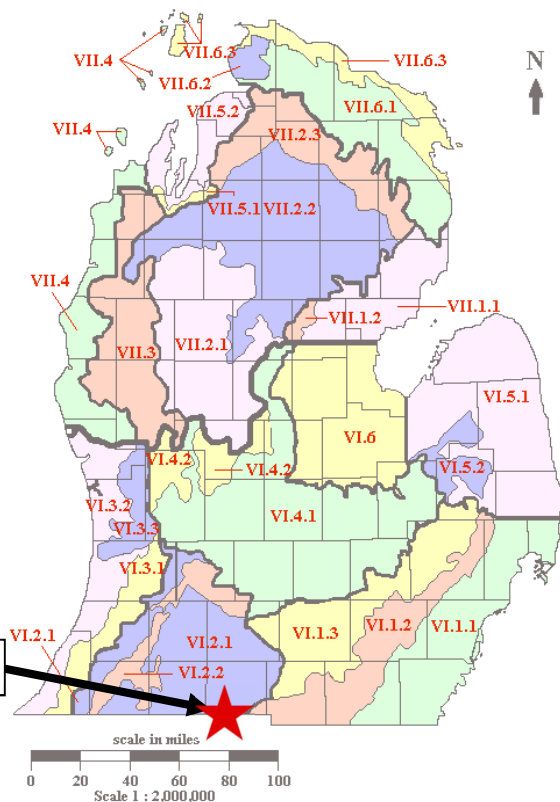
### Eco-Regional Context

Coldwater Lake State Park is located in ecoregion section 6, subsection 2.1, known as the Battle Creek Outwash Plain. This region is characterized by outwash deposits of sand and gravel with slopes of 0 to 6 percent. Ground moraine is concentrated in the southeast portion of this subsection, where Coldwater Lake State Park is located.

Numerous lakes and wetlands are located in this area formed in ice-block kettles or abandoned channels.

(Source: *Regional Landscape of Michigan and Wisconsin. A working Map and Classification.* Dennis Albert September 20, 1995)

Coldwater Lake State



### Climate

The growing season is 140 to 150 days. Late spring frosts often pose a danger due to numerous lowland depressions in the area. Annual snowfall is 40 to 50 inches and annual precipitation is 30 to 32 inches. Temperatures can be between -22 degrees to 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

### Geology

The geology of Coldwater Lake State Park consists of flat, outwash plain. The subsection is entirely underlain by Mississippian (Paleozoic) shale (Dorr and Eschman 1984, Milstein 1987). Glacial drift is shallow in the east where there are local exposures of shale, but it is as much as 350 feet thick in the west and southwest (Akers 1938).

### Topography

Topography of the park consists of gently rolling hills on the west and southern portions of the property with flat areas in the wetland portions of the property. The shoreline consists of a gentle ridge varying in height from 0 to 20 feet.

### Soils

The majority of the soil at Coldwater Lake State Park is made up of Fox sandy loam and Edwards muck in the low, wetland areas.



## **Wildlife**

Coldwater Lake State Park has diverse habitat, which includes lake frontage, wetlands, wooded fencerows, a small woodlot and agricultural fields. Even though it is a small state park, these diverse habitats provide food and cover to an array of wildlife species. Wetland species that can be found here include muskrat, raccoon, mallards, Canada geese, blue winged teal, wood duck, red-winged black birds, American coots, great blue heron, American woodcock, sandhill cranes, green frogs, spring peppers, wood frogs, painted turtles, salamanders, garner snakes, black rat snakes, and Northern water snakes. The agricultural fields, fencerows and thick brush around the wetlands provides habitat to woodchucks, deer mice, red fox, white-tailed deer, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, American robin, gray catbird, ring-necked pheasant, eastern bluebird, killdeer, mourning dove, northern cardinal, and song sparrow. The small woodlot provides habitat to fox squirrel, great horned owl, tree swallow, white-breasted nuthatch, tufted titmouse, black-capped chickadee, and several different woodpeckers.

## **Fish**

Coldwater Lake is one of the best fishing lakes in southern Michigan. Fisheries Division stocks walleye in the lake, and this system supports self-sustaining populations of bluegills, pumpkinseeds, red ear sunfish, black crappies, yellow perch, northern pike, largemouth bass, and smallmouth bass. Many bass tournaments occur on the lake and a tip-up festival is held on the Coldwater chain of lakes each winter.

The state threatened cisco historically inhabited Coldwater Lake. The last documented capture of ciscoes occurred in 1967. No ciscoes have been collected during recent surveys conducted by Fisheries Division. The spotted gar (a state special concern species) is present in Coldwater Lake.

## **Natural Areas**

There are currently no dedicated natural areas or other special conservation areas at Coldwater Lake State Park.

## **Rare Plants**

There are no rare plants known to occur at Coldwater Lake State Park. However, the open wetlands on the east side of the property have not been extensively surveyed and have the potential to contain rare plant species associated with wet meadow or prairie fen communities.

## **Rare Animals**

There are no rare animals known to occur at Coldwater Lake State Park. However, the state threatened Blanchard's cricket frog (*Acris crepitans blanchardi*) was historically known to occur in the vicinity of Coldwater Lake (ca. 1918-1919) and may or may not have been found in what is now the state park. Also, the open wetlands on the east side of the property have not been

extensively surveyed and have the potential to contain rare animal species associated with wet meadow or prairie fen communities. In particular, the Federal endangered Mitchell's satyr butterfly (*Neonympha mitchellii mitchellii*) occurs in a prairie fen within a mile of the park.

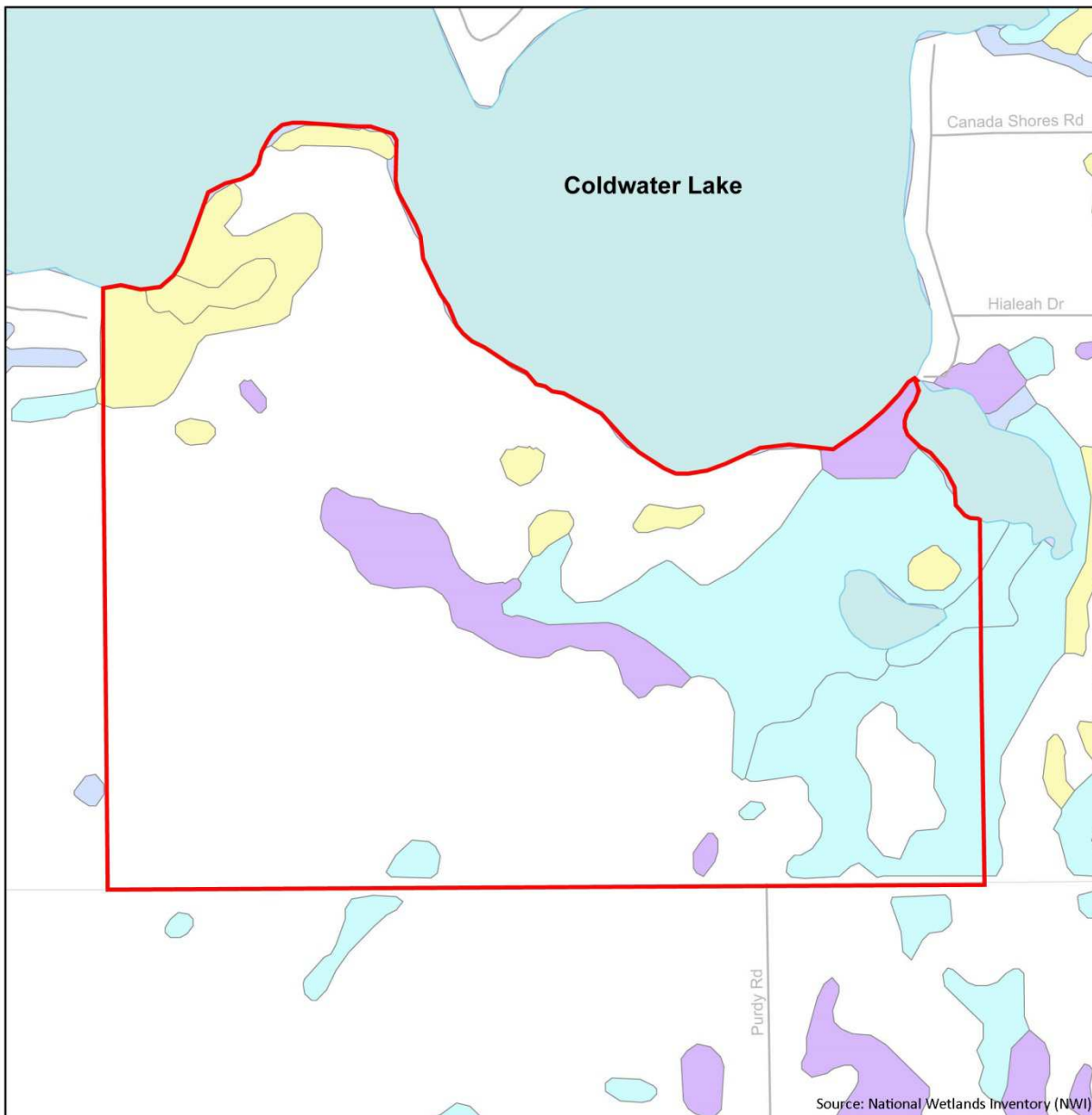
### **Natural Communities**

There are no known exemplary natural communities at Coldwater Lake State Park. However, the wetlands have not been extensively surveyed and assessed for quality. Based on soil type and geographic location, this park may have supported the very rare mesic prairie natural community prior to agricultural use. There would be potential for restoration of mesic prairie or oak savanna in the uplands of this park.

### **Lake Bottom Conditions**

According to the lake bottom conditions map from the Institute for Fisheries Research, the lake bottom directly adjacent to the park consists of Sand and Marl with Marl and Pulpy peat in the deeper part of the lake.

# COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK WETLANDS MAP

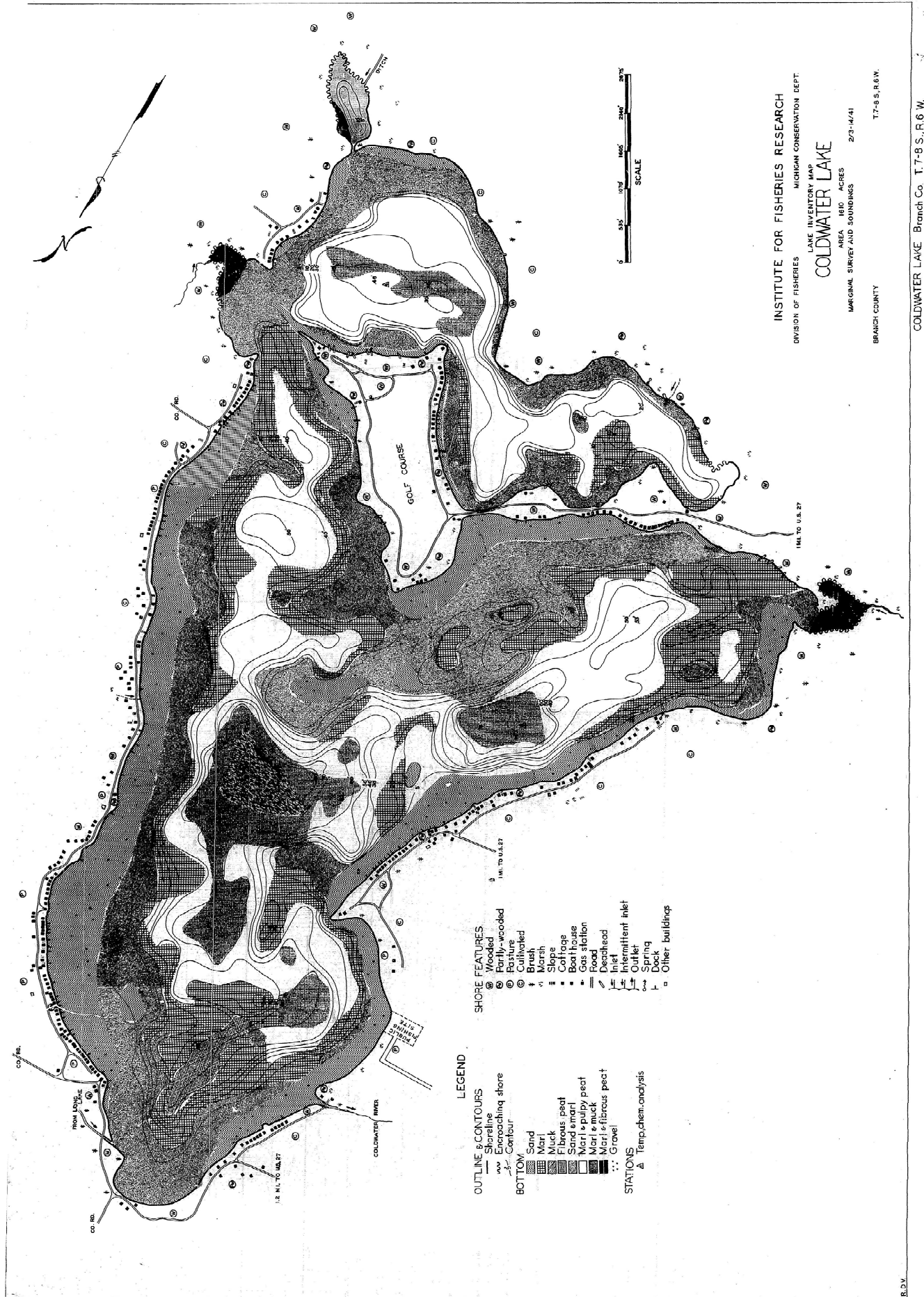


## Legend

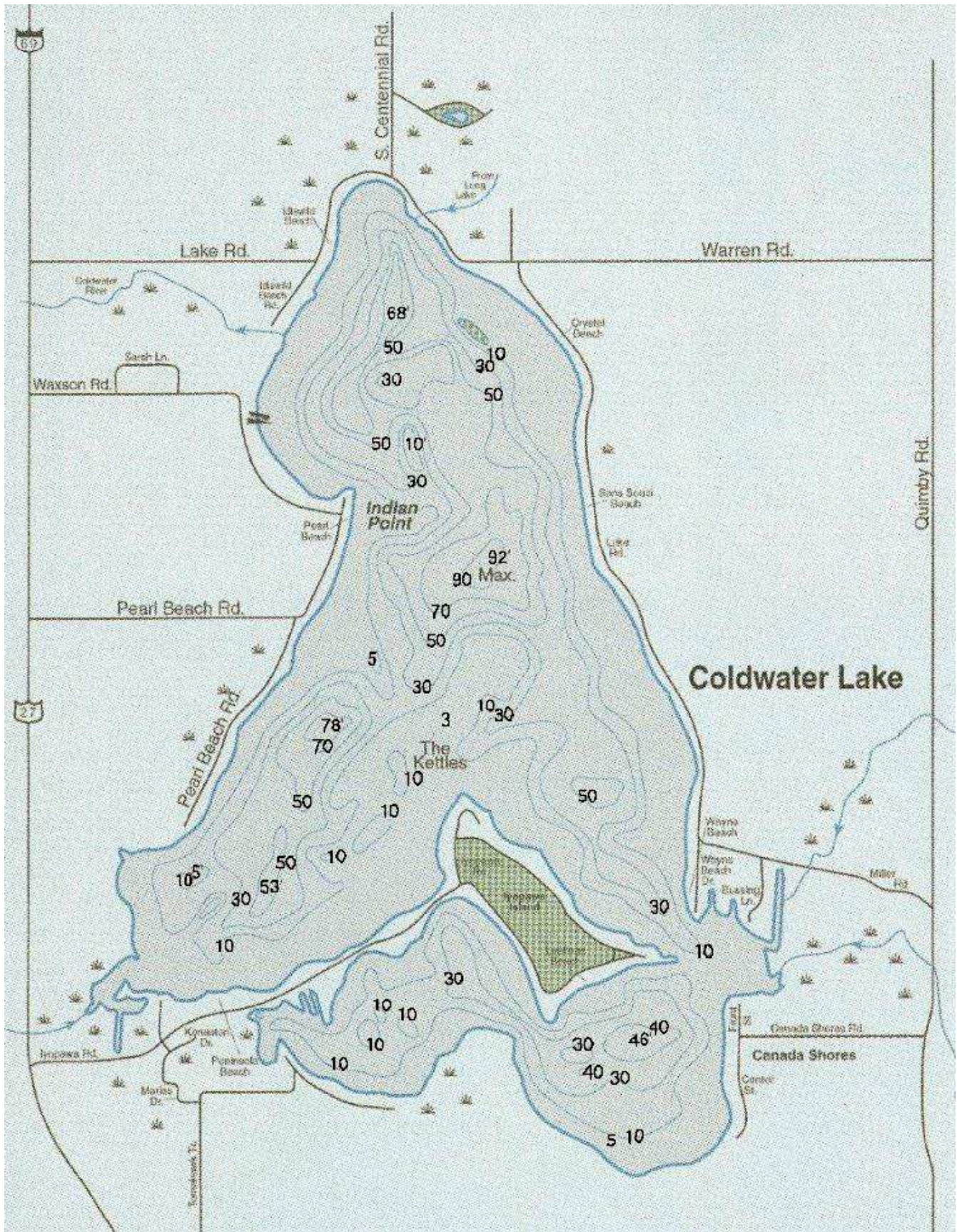
- Coldwater Lake State Park Boundary
- Emergent
- Scrub-Shrub
- Forested
- Open Water

0.1 0.05 0 0.1 Miles









Source: [www.coldwaterlakecottage.com](http://www.coldwaterlakecottage.com)



## **A.9 HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

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No structures currently exist within Coldwater Lake State Park that are eligible to be listed on the national registry. Two farmhouses once existed on the property, but were removed shortly after the state acquired the property.

There is potential for Native American occupation in the upland areas along the lakeshore.

## **A.10 RECREATION RESOURCES AT COLDWATER LAKE STATE PARK**

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### **Fishing**

Coldwater Lake is a warm water fishery consisting of pan fish, red ear sunfish, blue gills, walleye, black crappy, largemouth bass, northern pike, smallmouth bass and yellow perch. Shoreline fishing is available on the 1,600 acre Coldwater Lake, although access to the lakeshore from the park is limited. Fishing is a popular activity for boaters immediately offshore from the park.

### **Hunting**

The park is open to hunting via Director's Order. All hunting must follow seasonal restrictions. The park is popular for small game, turkey, waterfowl and deer. The park is the only public land open to hunting in Branch County and one of only a few sites in the tri-county area of Branch, Calhoun and St. Joseph counties.

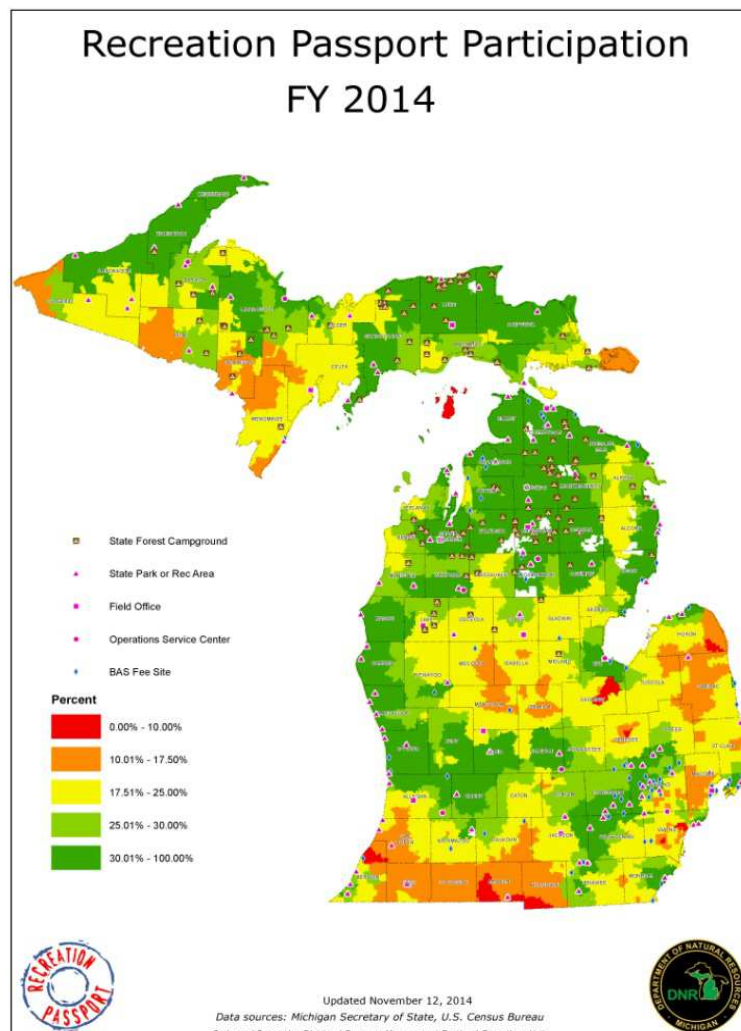
### **Equestrian**

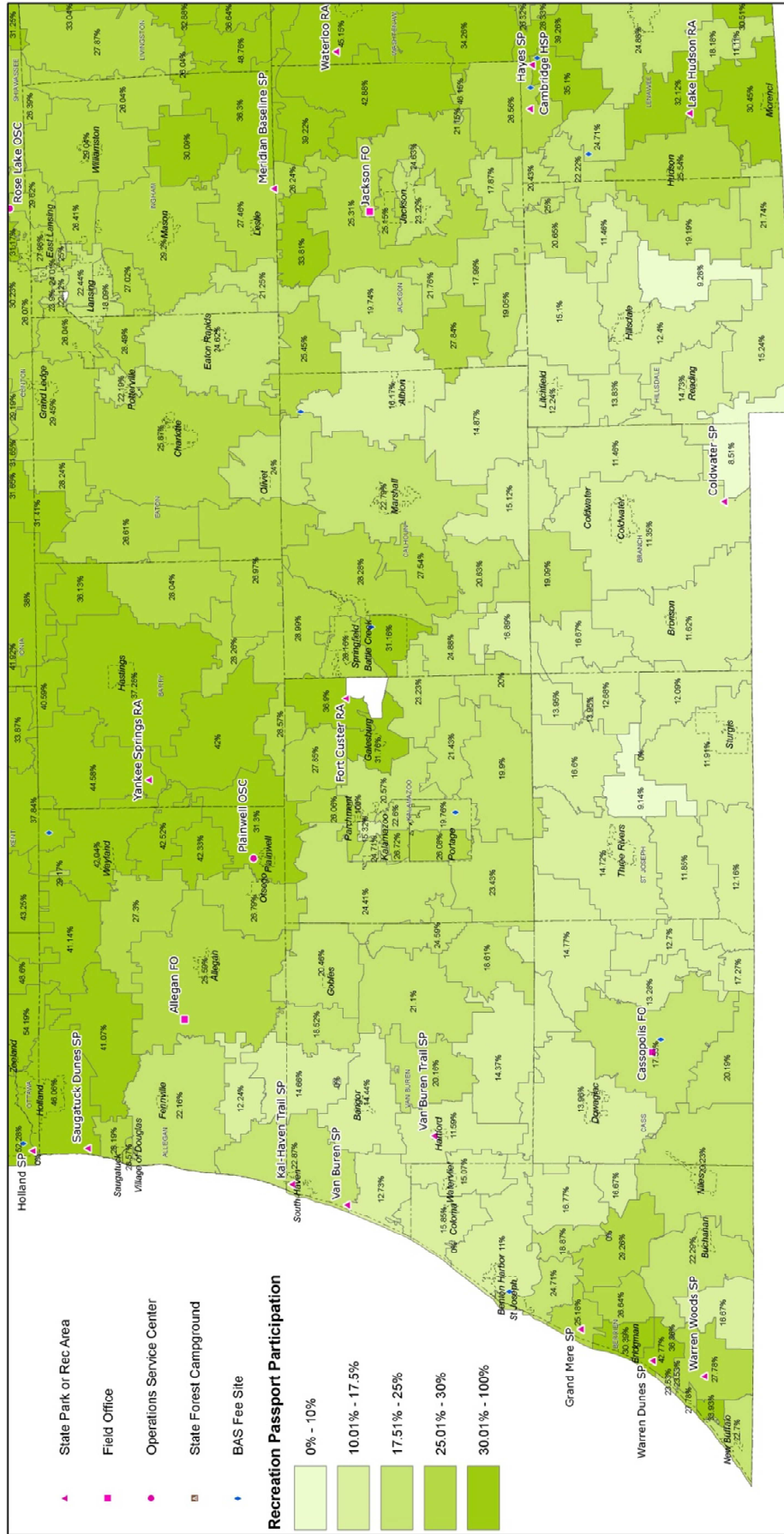
A use permit exists for the Kinderhook Riding Club to ride horses on the property from January 1 to April 15. There are no designated trails on the park property.



## A.11 ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

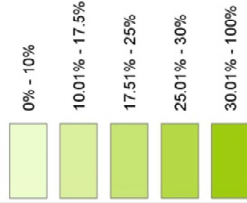
- Purchase of Recreation Passport- Michigan residents can purchase a Recreation Passport through the Secretary of State by checking “yes” when renewing their license plate through the web, mail, kiosk or Coldwater branch office. Recreation Passports (Resident and Non-Resident) for Coldwater Lake State Park can also be purchased at W.J. Hayes State Park or Fort Custer Recreation Area. Non-Residents are unable to purchase a Recreation Passport at the Secretary of State but do have the option of purchasing one online. Upon completion of the Management Plan, Recreation Passports may be made available at Coldwater Lake State Park through a self-registration process.
- Branch County has the lowest Recreation Passport participation rate in the state (10.8% compared to the state average of 28.5% in FY 2014). Participation has also shown a steady decrease since 2011. See maps that follow.
- The land is currently being managed out of Jackson Field Office, which is over 30 miles away.
- Irrigation across the County is believed to be depleting the water table.





- ▲ State Park or Rec Area
- Field Office
- Operations Service Center
- ◆ State Forest Campground
- + BAS Fee Site

**Recreation Passport Participation**



Updated June 9, 2014  
 Data sources: Michigan Secretary of State, U.S. Census Bureau  
 Parks and Recreation Division | Resource Management Section | Operations Unit